

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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UNCLAS PRETORIA 4170

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF, US, UN

SUBJECT: TEXT OF VORSTER COMMENTS ON MITCHELL STATEMENT

REF: (A) PRETORIA 4139 (B) PRETORIA 4157

(C) STATE 258141 (D) PRETORIA 4165

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF VORSTERS OCTOBER 29 COMMENTS ON MITCHELL STATEMENT (REFTELS). TEXT PROVIDED TO EMBASSY BY DFA. EMBASSYS COMPARISON WITH TAPE OF VORSTERS SPEECH INDICATES TEXT IS ACCURATE. NOTATIONS OF INSTANCES WHERE COMMENTS GREETED BY APPLAUSE ADDED BY EMBASSY. QUOTE LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. BUT IM SURE THAT HE DOESNT KNOW SOUTH AFRICA EITHER. IM SURE THAT HE DIDNT SPEAK FROM FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE AT ALL, BUT THAT HE WAS BRIEFED TO SAY WHAT HE SAID, AND FOR THE MOMENT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF MY ARGUMENT, I AM NOT TAKING EXCEPTION TO THE FIRST PART OF HIS SPEECH WHEN HE REFERRED TO SOUTH AFRICA AS THAT UNHAPPY COUNTRY. IM PREPARED TO COMPARE MY COUNTRY AS FAR AS HAPPINESS IS CONCERNED WITH HIS AT ANY TIME - BE IT IN DAYLIGHT AND BE IT AFTER DARK. AND I AM ALSO NOT TAKING EXCEPTION TO THE FACT THAT HE SAID THAT, AS FAR AS SOUTH AFRICA WAS CONCERNED, "... IT IS A CONTINUING AFFRONT TO THE SPIRIT AND PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER. APARTHEID REMAINS TODAY AS REPUGNANT TO THOSE

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WHO CHERISH THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY AS IT

DID THIRTY YEARS AGO WHEN THE UN WAS ESTABLISHED." I DONT FOR THE PURPOSE OF MY ARGUMENT, WANT TO REMIND MR MITCHELL THAT THEY HAD APARTHEID LAWS FROM 1946 WHEN UNO WAS FORMED UNTIL 1954 WHEN IT WAS OUTLAWED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES. IT WASNT THEIR PARLIAMENT WHO CHANGED IT, IT WAS THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES WHICH CHANGED IT FOR THEM. SO HES GOT NOTHING TO BRAG ABOUT AS FAR AS THAT IS CONCERNED. BUT, LADIES AND GENTLEMENT, I ALSO FORGET THAT HE SAYS THAT THE SYSTEM IS ODIUS AND ABHORRENT. COMPARISONS, AGAIN, ARE VERY ODIUS. AND HE TALKS ABOUT THE BRUTALIZING EFFECTS IT HAS ON ALL PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA. PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN GLASS HOUSES REALLY SHOULD NOT THROW STONES. BUT WHAT I DO TAKE EXCEPTION TO IS THIS - THAT IS THE WHOLE POINT OF MY ARGUMENT. WHEN HE USED THESE WORDS:

" THE US DEPLORES THE DETENTION OF PERSONS WHOSE ONLY ACT IS OUTSPOKEN OPPOSITION TO THE SYSTEM OF APARTHEID".

I DONT BLAME MR MITCHELL FOR USING THESE WORDS BECAUSE, PRESUMABLY, HE WAS BRIEFED BY ONE OF THE LOWER ECHELONS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT. AND I WANT TO SAY IN MY CONSTITUENCY AND IN ALL FAIRNESS TO MY COUNTRY TONIGHT, THAT IS A DOWNRIGHT LIE. (APPLAUSE) AND CANDIDLY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I HATE TO SAY IT ABOUT MY LEADER IN THE FREE WORLD, ABOUT ONE OF ITS SPOKESMEN, BUT THERE COMES A TIME WHEN THIS SORT OF THING HAS TO BE ANSWERED AND IT HAS TO BE ANSWERED IN PUBLIC. AND IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY AS THE PRIME MINISTER OF THIS COUNTRY TO GIVE THIS REPLY. BECAUSE, LET ME SAY, WE HAVE DETAINED PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY, AND I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT. THEY WERE DETAINED IN THE TIME WHEN I WAS MINISTER OF JUSTICE, THEY WERE DETAINED LATER BY THOSE WHO FOLLOWED ME, AND PEOPLE ARE BEING DETAINED ACCORDING TO OUR SECURITY LAWS TO THIS VERY DAY. BUT I SAY THIS, AND BECAUSE I AM A FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES, AND BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES IS MY LEADER, THEREFORE, I SAY I AM ENTITLED TO ISSUE THIS CHALLENGE TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WHICH WROTE THIS SPEECH FOR MR MITCHELL. NAME ME ONE INDIVIDUAL IN SOUTH AFRICA WHO WAS ARRESTED AND DETAINED, ONLY BECAUSE OF HIS OUTSPOKEN OPPOSITION TO THE SYSTEM OF APARTHEID. NO MAN

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HAS EVER BEEN ARRESTED OR DETAINED IN SOUTH AFRICA BECAUSE HE HAS SPOKEN OUT AGAINST APARTHEID. GOOD HEAVENS ... THERE ARE FORTY-EIGHT OF THEM IN PARLIAMENT (LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE) THEY WALK THE STREETS OF JOHANNESBURG BY THEIR HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS. THEY SIT IN EDITORS OFFICES. AND, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I MUST SAY ON BEHALF OF MY COUNTY, AND BECAUSE WE ARE NOT AT THE MOMENT REPRESENTED

IN THE UNITED NATIONS, I MUST TAKE THE STRONGEST ACCEPTION
TO THIS ACCUSATION BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF A FRIENDLY
COUNTRY, TO SAY THAT THE UNITED STATES DEPLORES THE DETENTION
OF PERSONS WHOSE ONLY ACT IS OUTSPOKEN OPPOSITION TO THE
SYSTEM OF APARTHEID. AND, I WANT TO REPEAT AGAIN, THAT
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND DETAINED BEFORE, BECAUSE
PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY WITH FIRE AND WILL CONTINUE
TO TRY AND UNDERMINE AND SUBVERT THE STATE OF SOUTH
AFRICA. PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO BE DETAINED AND ARRESTED
IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR AS LONG AS THIS SITUATION GOES ON.
MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT. (APPLAUSE)UNQUOTE
BOWDLER

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